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Original Articles

No paper published, or to be published elsewhere as original, will be accepted in this department.

FRACTURES.*

BY E. B. SMITH, M.D., DETROIT, MICH.

In fractures we have a common ground where the physician and the surgeon meet upon a level, and where common usage allows the physician as well as the surgeon to treat the case. Fractures constitute about one-seventh of all accidents and are ten times more frequent than dislocations. The knowledge requisite for treating fractures of all kinds has no limitation. I feel that if we together review the subject and refresh our minds on some of its salient points, we will have a clearer conception of the whole subject. I trust, then, you will pardon me for bringing such a common theme before your scientific body.

Etiology of Fractures.—Violence is the leading factor in fractures; it may be direct or indirect. We should not, however, forget that muscular action is often a cause of fracture. The fractures of the olecranon and patella are examples of this kind. In fractures by indirect violence the long bones suffer most often. Males, on account of their occupations, are more prone to meet with fractures, the time being that period of activity and exposure between twenty and thirty years of age. Old age comes next as a predisposing factor because the medullary canal of the bone

* Read by invitation at the Lambton County Medical Society, May 10th, 1899.